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DIRECTORATE OF
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Imagery Analysis Service Notes

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This publication highlights significant or timely intelligence items derived from photography.

The interpretations in this publication represent preliminary views which are subject to modification in the light of further information and more complete analysis.

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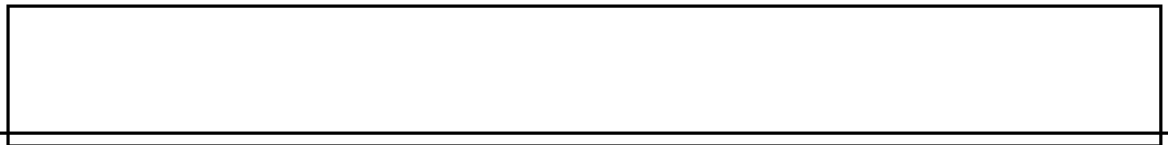


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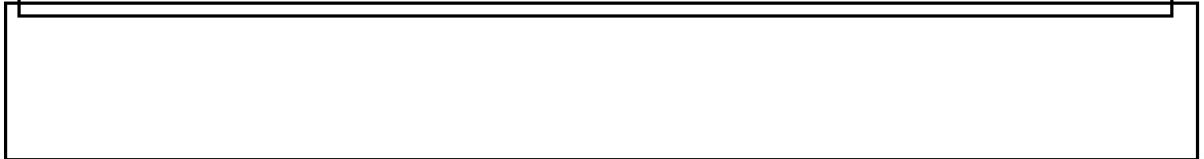
IMAGERY ANALYSIS SERVICE NOTES NO. 17/69

CONTENTS

25X1D



25X6



CHINA

Status of the Iron and Steel Industry 6

25X1D

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

CHINA

Status of the Iron and Steel Industry

A photographic study of four major and 29 secondary Chinese iron and steel plants indicates that the expansion and modernization program observed on [] photography continued through []. The Chinese have completed or are constructing additional basic oxygen furnaces (BOFs), open hearth furnaces, rolling mills and plants.

At least one and probably two new BOFs are now operational and three are under construction. This makes a total of 10 and probably 11 BOFs observed. Six and probably eight open hearth furnaces have been constructed since []. A new rolling mill was completed and another enlarged by the []. Another two new mills were nearly complete by [] and expansion of one mill has continued since [].

In addition to expansion or modernization at existing facilities, work continued at a moderate rate on a new iron and steel plant at Chiu-chuan and at another possible one at Jen-ho-chieh. Excluding uneconomical facilities, the 33 plants studied appeared to be operating near maximum production levels during late [].

For detailed descriptions of these plants, excluding Jen-ho-chieh, see IAS report Selected Iron and Steel Plants, China, RCS 13/0241/69, June 1969.

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